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FROM: BONN

Control: 195
Rec'd : May 1, 1954
10:47 A.M.

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 350, May 1, 3 P.M.

AFTER SERIES FALSE STARTS WHICH GAVE PRESTIGE-LOWERING DEMONSTRATION THAT COALITION MACHINERY FUNCTIONING VERY STIFFLY, BUNDESTAG 30 APR PASSED WITH 275 VOTES (INCLUDING MOST OF FDP) TO 135 RESOLUTION COMMENDING IN GENERAL TERMS CHANC'S EUROPEAN POLICY AND DECLARING BUNDESTAG ADOPTED SAME LEGAL VIEW OF RELATION OF GERMANY TO SAAR AS FIRST BUNDESTAG. AS IS CUSTOMARY FOLLOWING MAJOR POLICY DEBAT, CHANC WISHED OBTAIN BUNDESTAG ENDORSEMENT FOR HIS POLICY FOLLOWING 29 APRIL DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY. CDU ATTEMPTS DURING DEBATE TO FORMULATE RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO FDP AND DISSIDENCE IN OWN RANKS ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS SAAR QUESTION, FAILED AND WATERED-DOWN VERSION WAS BROUGHT IN NEXT DAY AFTER REPEATED ATTEMPTS AT INTRA-COALITION AGREEMENT WHICH DELAYED SCHEDULED SESSION OVER TWO HOURS. IN HARD-FOUGHT STRUGGLE ON POINTS OF ORDER, CDU THEN FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN EVADING PERSISTENT SPD ATTEMPTS TO FORCE BUNDESTAG TO RE-ADOPT RESOLUTION OF 2 JULY 1953 DIRECTING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STEPS END DE FACTO SEPARATION OF SAAR FROM GERMANY. SPD ATTEMPTS TO SPLIT FDP FROM COALITION ON THIS ISSUE PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL; MAJORITY OF FDP VOTED WITH SPD IN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO AMEND RESOLUTION TO ADD PHRASE ON ENDING DE FACTO SEPARATION OF SAAR.

COURSE OF DEBATE AND SUBSEQUENT PARLIAMENTARY INFIGHTING SHOW CHANC'S VICTORY WAS PYRRHIC ONE AS FAR AS EUROPEAN INTEGRATION POLICY CONCERNED. IT IS REPORTED WITHOUT CONFIRMATION THAT CHANC HAD TO THREATEN DISSOLVE CABINET IN ORDER GET FDP AND BHE TO AGREE TO FINAL COMPROMISE RESOLUTION. COALITION ON DEFENSIVE DURING DEBATE. ITS SPEAKERS WERE REDUCED TO CONTENTION THAT FEDERAL REPUBLIC MUST HONOR ITS AGREEMENTS TO BITTER END IN ORDER MAINTAIN GERMANY'S INTERNATIONAL CREDIT. EVEN SO, FDP, IN PUBLICLY DECLARING THAT IT REJECTED EUROPEANIZATION OF SAAR ON GROUNDS EUR WOULD NOT COME INTO EXISTENCE WAS EXPRESSING DOUBT WHICH IS SHARED BY MAJORITY CDU, BHE, DP.

SPD'S LINE DURING DEBATE SHOWED THAT PARTY NOW CONSIDERS IT POLITICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO STEP UP ITS OPPOSITION TO US POLICY. IN SPITE OF REPEATED PRIVATE HINTS THAT PARTY MIGHT SOON PRESENT CONCRETE ALTERNATIVE FOR GERMAN PARTICIPATION EUROPEAN DEFENSE, REFERENCE TO SUCH POSSIBILITY DURING DEBATE WAS BRIEF AND NON-COMMITTAL, AND WHOLE EMPHASIS OF SPD

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-2- 0350, MAY 1, 3 P.M. FROM BONN

APPROACH TO GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY QUESTION WAS LAID ON CONCILIATIONS AND NEGOTIATION WITH SOVIET UNION AND GDR AUTHORITIES (LATTER ON TECHNICAL LEVEL ONLY).

IN VIEW OF THESE TRENDS, URGE EARLIEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN POSSIBLE US MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT CONFIDENCE IN EUROPEAN INTEGRATION WITHIN LIMITATION OF PRESENT FRENCH EDC PICTURE. VISIT TO GERMANY OF HIGH US OFFICIAL MIGHT HELP MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE IN ADENAUER'S POLICIES.

BOWLING

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